

Discussion on Gaps

Coordination	<p>(non-profits, county weed boards, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better connectivity between all of the authorities from local to federal. Information is not being transferred to all entities.
Information and Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clear criteria or risk assessment to determine rapid response. Good models for early detection at the county level are limited. Gaps exist in agency authorities (ex: who deals with frogs?). Legislature currently acts only when there is a disaster with invasive species and does not fund invasive species projects early. Information is not being transferred to all entities.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mechanism to compensate land owners for costs and/or impacts. Department of Ecology has \$100,000 set aside for emergency response that is paid out to local groups . weed boards, lakes association, etc. There is no comparable funding for animal species.
Lack of Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of taxonomic expertise is a major problem and has been for the last 15 years.
Next Steps	Discussion on Next Steps
Workgroup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address gaps in agency authority and make lead agency determinations with agency buy-in and commitment. Gain political support. Work with agencies and organizations to establish criteria for risk assessment and determine authorities.
Risk Assessment and Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify new potential invaders and determine risk using a risk assessment process. Work to develop a centralized location to help with oversight and assistance, house a database of credible reports and route inquiries to lead agencies. Designate lead agency for rapid response to an invasive species based upon class of species. Unlisted species require a joint decision by agency directors based on existing statutes, taxonomy, environment, native species at risk, or possible human health issues.
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County weed boards have assessments added to property tax. Fees on potential pathways (Ecology, WDFW, and WSP share a fee on registrations of recreational boats. Legislative mandates to provide funding for responding to specific species Institute a single fund bucket for emergency funding, overseen by lead agency and distributed to agencies as needed for rapid response. Develop a statewide template or strategy for emergency funding.
Decide on Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead agency must have regulatory authority, credible reports by experts for species identification, channels to turn a credible report into an action, expertise (or access to expertise like a technical advisory committee) to do a risk assessment, access to funding, resources and staff. Washington Invasive Species Council State and local government

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

Enhance capacity to respond to invasive species by improving agencies' access to emergency funding and building on existing efforts to develop an interagency early detection and rapid response network.

Action 5.1 Establish a protocol and flowchart to support an early detection and rapid response network. Conduct tabletop exercises to enhance communications of the most efficient processes.

Action 5.2 Establish a state fund for emergency, rapid response.

Action 5.3 Identify existing emergency funds and enhance access to them.

Action 5.4 Use existing early detection and rapid response network models to build a functioning, statewide system with enhanced capacity for detection, verification, assessment, planning, and response.